

91 within transmission range of the network access point, each of the receiving transceiver modules making a decision as to whether to re-transmit said message based on a determination of whether the receiving transceiver module is on a designated path between the network access point and the one or more intended transceiver modules.

92 36. A method for communicating information related to a plurality of working components from each such working component to a central location, comprising the steps of:
attaching and operably connecting a transceiver module to each working component, said transceiver module including at least a microcontroller and a radio transceiver operating at a power level of no more than 500 mW; and
positioning an area control module in the vicinity of the plurality of working components, said area control module including at least a microprocessor and a radio transceiver, and said area control module being in communication with said central location;
wherein, upon occurrence of a predetermined event,
the microcontroller associated with one of said transceiver modules initiating transmission of a message through the radio transceiver, said message containing the identification of and the status of the working component;
the message being received by the radio transceivers associated with one or more neighboring transceiver modules;
each of said receiving transceiver modules making a decision as to whether to re-transmit said message based on a determination of whether the transceiver module is on a designated path between the transceiver module from which the message originated and

the area control module;

re-transmission of the message continuing along said designated path until
the message is received at the area control module; and

said area control module communicating said message to the central
location.

37. A method for communicating information related to a plurality of working
components from each such working component to a central location, comprising the steps of:
attaching and operably connecting a transceiver module to each working
component, said transceiver module including at least a microcontroller and a radio transceiver
operating in the 902 MHz to 928 MHz frequency band or the 2.40 GHz to 2.48 GHz frequency
band; and
positioning an area control module in the vicinity of the plurality of working
components, said area control module including at least a microprocessor and a radio transceiver,
and said area control module being in communication with said central location;
wherein, upon occurrence of a predetermined event,
the microcontroller associated with one of said transceiver modules
initiating transmission of a message through the radio transceiver, said message containing the
identification of and the status of the working component;
the message being received by the radio transceivers associated with one
or more neighboring transceiver modules;
each of said receiving transceiver modules making a decision as to

whether to re-transmit said message based on a determination of whether the transceiver module is on a designated path between the transceiver module from which the message originated and the area control module;

re-transmission of the message continuing along said designated path until the message is received at the area control module; and

said area control module communicating said message to the central location.

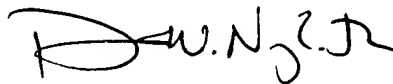
REMARKS:

This preliminary amendment has been filed prior to the receipt of any office action on the merits of the application.

Since this preliminary amendment adds two additional independent claims to the application, a fee in the amount of \$102 is enclosed.

Finally, for purposes of clarity, attached are replacement application sheets 35-46.

Respectfully submitted,



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